

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10746 270912Z

20-R
ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN EEWHT ETRD CH US
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FDA STANDARDS IN REJECTING PRC SHRIMP

REF: A. HK 10208; B. HK 10592

SUMMARY. FDA REJECTION OF THIRD PRAWN SHIPMENT AND
CANCELLATION OF FDA REJECTION INSURANCE BY INA APPEARS TO END
FOR PRESENT U.S. PURCHASE OF PRC ORIGIN PRAWNS. Y.Y.

WONG, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. IMPORTERS, WANTS U.S.
FDA REGULATION TO TAKE TO OCTOBER 15 CANTON TRADE FAIR TO
DISCUSS WITH PRC OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO SAVE THIS TRADE.
ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO AIR POUCH
OR MAIL VIA FPO THE FDA REGULATIONS FOR US TO GIVE TO WONG
FOR THIS PURPOSE. END SUMMARY.

1. A THIRD SHIPMENT OF PRC ORIGIN PRAWNS WORTH ABOUT \$300,000
WAS REJECTED BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN
SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO TELEX FROM MURRAY BERGER, PRESIDENT
OF SEABROOK FOODS, INC., GREAT NECK, NEW YORK, TO HIS LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVE Y. Y. WONG. IN ADDITION, INSURACE COM-
PANY OF NORTH AMERICA (INA) HAS CANCELLED BERGER'S FDA
REJECTION INSURANCE. ANOTHER U.S. INSURANCE COMPANY RE-
QUIRES AND INGINEERING ON-SITE SURVEY OF PRC SEAFOOD PLANTS
BEFORE WRITING FDA REJECTION INSURANCE. THE PRC IS MOST
UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO THIS. ONCE THESE DEVELOPMENTS BECOME
KNOWN, IN OUR OPINION, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OTHER U.S. FIRMS
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WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPORT PRC SHRIMP. BERGER IS PESSIMISTIC

ABOUT THE FUTURE PRC PRAWN IMPORTS THAT HE MAY REFUSE INVITATION
TO FALL CANTON FAIR.

2. WONG SAYS THAT PRC-OWNED CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY'S CURRENT POLICY IS NOT TO WRITE INSURANCE FOR ANY PRC GOODS SHIPPED TO THE U.S. DUE TO LACK OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THIS APPEARS TO CLOSE OFF POSSIBILITY OF GETTING THE CIC TO WRITE FDA REJECTION INSURANCE.

3. WONG, A CHINA TRADE OF LONG STANDING , WANT TO TAKE WITH IM TO FALL CANTON FAIR (WHICH OPENS ON OCTOBER 15) AS MUCH TECHNICAL INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT FDA SHRIMP INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS INCLUDING FDA BACTERIA COUNT METHODS. WONG HOPES TO PRESENT THE FDA REGULATIONS DIRECTLY TO APPROPRIATE PRC OFFICIALS AND TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PRC SHRIMP EXPORTS.

4. Y.Y. WONG IS THEGENERAL MANAGER OF FIDELITY MERCANTILE COMPANY, A MEDIUM SIZED TRADING FIRM THAT HAS HAD LONG-STANDING BROAD CONTACTS WITH PRC TRADE OFFICIALS. HE IS ALSO A VERY HELPFUL CONSULATE CONTACT. IN OUR VIEW HE STANDS A BETTER CHANCE THAN MOST OF BEING ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER USEFULLY WITH CHINESE TRADE OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT. THE PROBABLE CESSATION OF U.S. SHRIMP IMPORTS FROM THE PRC COMES AT A TIME WHEN PRC OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE 10-1 TRADE IMBALANCE WITH THE U.S. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHOW THAT WE ARE SESNITIVE TO THIS PRC CONCERN BY SUPPLYING INFORMATION IN A TIMELY MANNER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO SEND TO THE CONGEN BEFORE OCTOBER 15 COPIES OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR US TO PASS TO WONG.
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